

WTHR

FEMA offers assistance in Johnson County

Johnson County - Flood victims are getting some answers Monday. Johnson County government, residents and businesses all face millions of dollars in flood damage, and the price tag is still going up after water inundated buildings last week.

It was a full house at the town hall meeting in Franklin to deal with flood victims' concerns. Federal, state and local agencies streamlined a complicated process to help people recover.

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency attended the meeting to explain the grant money available to homeowners with damage. So far, FEMA has distributed \$5 million in housing grants in 26 Indiana counties affected by flooding. That money does not have to be paid back.

"As the days go on we find more and more damage start to appear and it sounds like that there is some possibility of help, so we're encouraged," said Cathy Bailey, Prince's Lakes.

The Small Business Administration will review with business owners the low-interest loans that are available to repair or rebuild. Damage is estimated in the millions of dollars.

"We came down Thursday and you just saw the looks on these people's faces. They just looked like they were lost," said Rep. Woody Burton (R-Greenwood). "We're just trying to figure out ways to give them as much information as possible. This is gonna be kind of a town hall information type meeting. We've got a lot of people here from all of us in government including Congressman Buyer and FSSA."

FEMA assessment teams at the Johnson County Fairgrounds are working on a total for Johnson County damage.

All flood victims are encouraged to apply for disaster assistance, but everyone seeking financial assistance must register with FEMA.

State and Federal officials encourage those affected by the disaster to apply for assistance immediately by going online to <http://www.fema.gov> or by calling this toll-free number, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern time), seven days a week, until further notice. Those with speech or hearing impairments may call TTY 1-800-462-7585.

Road near Bloomfield washed away

Bloomfield - A section of State Road 57 in Greene County has been washed away by high water.

The flooding from a small creek, Simpson Ditch, just south of the highway's intersection with State Road 54 pushed out about 60 feet of pavement.

Department of Transportation spokeswoman Cher Goodwin says there's no estimate of damages yet, but the road isn't expected to be repaired until the end of July.

In the meantime, the department has designated a 13-mile detour -- west through Odon, then north to Bloomfield and back on State Road 54.

Bush approves two more counties for federal assistance

President George W. Bush approved two more Indiana counties - Decatur and Wayne - for individual federal assistance. That brings the total number of approved Indiana counties to 28. Assistance can include [grants](#) for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

In Indianapolis, Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) inspectors have checked 308 structures in Marion County for flood damage. To date, they estimate damage totaling \$1,777,900. Inspections have included 13 commercial structures, 247 single family structures, 44 multi-family structures, and four mobile homes. There were 21 structures with major damage. No structures have been reported destroyed. Inspections will conclude Tuesday. Anyone wishing to report flood damage after Monday should call Marion County Emergency Management at 327-3900

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"Otherwise it will generally be a dry week coming up, a lot quieter than it has been lately," Hendrickson said.

Heavy rain the first weekend of June triggered widespread flooding in several counties. The state saw its latest dose of wild weather Sunday, when winds as fast as 70 mph knocked down some trees in north central Indiana and snapped power lines west of Lafayette. No tornadoes touched down.

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Areas along the Wabash and White rivers in the southern part of the state are still seeing some moderate to major flooding, but they should return below flood stage by early next week, said Robin Smith, a meteorologist with the weather service in Paducah, Ky.

The rest of Indiana's waterways should fall below flood stage by Friday.

The Indiana National Guard was monitoring conditions in Hazleton, East Mount Carmel and New Harmony, said John Erickson, a state Department of Homeland Security spokesman. Otherwise, he said the state has "crossed the threshold" toward recovery.

"The weather outlook is in our favor," he said. "The rainfall over the weekend didn't have any significant affect on river levels, and no significant flooding occurred."

The upcoming dry weather will give rivers and farm fields a good two or three days to drain, Smith said.

Weather service hydrologist Al Shipe said ground can dry out fast when the sun rises as high as it does this time of year.

"A lot of the water the way it fell, it ran off, it didn't soak in," Shipe said. "You go this time of the year a week without rain, and you wonder where the water is."

Homeland Security reports that 119 people were still staying in shelters in Bartholomew, Morgan and Vigo counties as of Monday morning.

The state Bureau of Motor Vehicles has announced that people can help flood victims by donating bottled water, nonperishable food, diapers and other items at branch offices throughout the state.

[More storms as flood-weary residents returning home](#)

Elnora - More storms swept across the state Sunday as thousands of water-weary residents across central and southern Indiana have begun returning to their homes following some of the worst flooding in the state's history.

"They're returning to their homes," Pam Bright, a spokeswoman for the state's Homeland Security Department, said Sunday. "We're in the recovery stage, pretty much."

Storms Sunday afternoon and evening blew down trees and power lines in northern Indiana, causing power outages. Hail stones as large as 1.25 inches in diameter were reported in Mishawaka.

A large tree ended up on the roof of a home in South Bend. No injuries were reported.

A wind gust of 54 miles per hour was reported at the Fort Wayne airport, the National Weather Service said.

The storm also knocked out power to residents in the Indianapolis, Lafayette and Muncie areas.

Most of tiny Elnora on the White River in southwest Indiana was back home by the weekend as high water receded. Only a few houses in the Ellen Street and Cherokee sections of town were still underwater Saturday.

"There were a lot of people in this town who sure were glad to see blue skies and no more rain," said Anita Abrams, who owns the only grocery store in town.

About 200 people spent at least one night at North Daviess High School after residents were urged to evacuate early last week. Hundreds of Marines and National Guard soldiers and scores of volunteers spent a frenzied week setting up about 100,000 sandbags to protect the town of about 700.

"The area around here was like a big city that never shuts down. The Marines would sleep for a little while under a tree and then get up and start fresh," said Diana Moore, whose back yard is just a few feet from the river.

Only about 200 Guard members remained out of some nearly 1,000 who were deployed to help combat the flooding across the southern part of the state, Bright said.

Sandbagging also was completed at a levee in New Harmony, where the Wabash River crested at 22.4 feet Sunday.

"We're sandbagging to the 24-foot level, so we should be OK," Posey County Emergency Management Director Larry Robb said Saturday.

But flood warnings remained in effect for many southwestern counties, and there was still high water along the lower White and Wabash rivers, said weather service spokesman Phil Gray. The flood crest of the White already had flowed into the Wabash, he said Sunday.

Much of the high water was expected to dissipate by the coming weekend, Gray said, though some flooding could remain in areas from Petersburg and Hazleton to the Ohio River into the following week.

Meanwhile, state and federal authorities set up service centers in schools, government buildings and community centers and urged residents affected by flooding to apply for assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency online or by phone.

More than 100 people remained in Red Cross shelters in Bartholomew, Gibson, Johnson, Morgan and Vigo counties Saturday.

For some, going home was not a viable option.

Sarah Lyle, 29, who checked into a shelter at Martinsville High School on Saturday, said floodwaters had lifted her family's home on the outskirts of the city off its foundation and rendered it uninhabitable.

"We might be able to rebuild out there," she said, but, "it's got to go up on the hill this time."

[IRS gives flood victims more time to file](#)

Washington, D.C. - Storm and flood victims in Iowa, Indiana and Wisconsin will get more time to make quarterly estimated tax payments due Monday, the Internal Revenue Service said.

"At a time like this, taxes should be the last thing on the minds of these unfortunate victims," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman.

The tax agency earlier this spring extended filing and payment deadlines for those in parts of Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri and Oklahoma affected by natural disasters.

The IRS said new due dates vary, depending upon location, and details are available on the "Tax Relief in Disaster Situations" page on the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov.

The IRS added that taxpayers in these areas who suffered uninsured or unreimbursed property damage can choose to claim these losses on their 2007 tax returns.

Newspaper: Bad dams no surprise to state

The owners of four Indiana dams damaged by this spring's flooding and stormy weather had been warned about their barrier's deficiencies, but they never made repairs and the state never punished them, a newspaper reported.

That includes Johnson County's Earlham Lake Dam, the only one found to have failed after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Natural Resources inspected 102 structures last week, according to a story Monday in The Indianapolis Star.

Heavy storms overwhelmed the dam's spillways, causing it to fail and destroying a road that runs over it. The spillway was listed as deficient by state inspectors in several reviews dating to 1997, and the state noted in 2005 that the amount of water it could handle fell below Department of Natural Resources standards, the Star reported.

The state lists the owner of the dam as Earlham Lake Estates. Company president David Hunter declined to comment to the Star. No telephone listing was available for Hunter in Johnson County.

A resident's association that owns the road over the dam said it would pay for its reconstruction.

"It's not fair," member Joyce Campbell said. "Their (spillway) just wasn't designed to handle that kind of brutality."

Also in Johnson County, a 2006 inspection noted that the East Lake dam spillway could handle only half the amount of water state standards require. Water overflowing from East Lake damaged an estimated 100 homes.

"If the emergency spillway and the primary spillway was to (state) specification before this disaster, there wouldn't have been a disaster," said Greg Robison, president of the East Lake Lot Owners Association, which owns the dam.

A 1995 inspection found a Morgan County dam to have an emergency spillway that appeared too small.

The Graybrook Dam in Owen County was listed in poor condition in 2006. Both dams broke last week, draining nearby lakes.

If dam owners refuse to comply with state safety standards, officials can report them to the attorney general and even drain the lake, said George Crosby, manager of the Department of Natural Resources dam and levee safety section. But the state took no legal action against owners of the four delinquent dams.

About half of the 1,100 dams under state jurisdiction need some sort of repair, but Indiana has initiated legal action against dam owners only 15 to 20 times in the past five years, DNR spokesman Phil Bloom said. Municipalities and private entities own most of the dams under state jurisdiction.

Because of limited resources, officials appear to target the most hazardous structures, Crosby said.

WISHTV

Post-flood issues surfacing in Brown County

BROWN COUNTY, Ind. (WISH) - In a little town named Trevlac, the familiar scenes of piled, flood-damaged furniture and other household items are a common site. The area was one of the hardest hit by last week's flooding.

The people who live along one road in Trevlac are waiting for FEMA to look at the damage. They are waiting to see what their future holds after the catastrophe.

Brown County Emergency Management Director Mike Bruce said, in the days after the flooding, other problems have arisen. One of them is mosquitoes. It's not hard to find their larvae in the standing water the flood left behind.

Officials are also worried about mold.

"We're beginning to get a lot of mold issues because of the household debris," said Brown County Commissioner Stephanie Yager.

Brown County resident Teresa Ballard lives in an apartment. She said the building's owners are testing the air quality.

It's a joint effort in Brown County to put the pieces together again.

"It's a process and it's gonna be tough for individuals to start but we're out there helping them as much as we can," said Yager.

Governor Daniels toured Brown County Monday.

FEMA also visited neighborhoods, assessing the damage.

The Brown County Health Department is handing out clean-up kits to residents along with bug repellent and sunscreen.

Disaster relief headed to Johnson Co. flood victims

JOHNSON COUNTY, Ind. (WISH) - Flood victims in Johnson County attended a special meeting at the fairgrounds to learn more about disaster relief on Monday.

Congressman Steve Buyer along with state and local officials spoke to more than 100 flood victims and their families. Among those in the crowd was Betty Clarkston.

"The water was 6 foot in the house. It destroyed everything in the house," said Betty.

Betty lives on Hemphill Street in Franklin, one of the hardest hit neighborhoods. The flood waters forced her and her neighbors out of their homes.

"We don't know if it will be saved, condemned or if we will have to rebuild or what," said Betty.

At the meeting, representatives from FEMA and the Small Business Administration talked about financial relief.

"Its important people apply even if they think they may not be eligible. If they had damage and they are in one of those 26 counties, they need to apply with FEMA.

Many times people believe the SBA is here only to help businesses. When it comes to disaster assistance, the US SBA helps homeowners and renters, as well as, business owners.

For Betty Clarkston the meeting was just what she needed, a confidence booster letting her know she's on her way to recovery.

State government opened a new Disaster Relief Center at Franklin College. Johnson County flood victims can come to this location to apply for state and federal aid.

June Flooding: FEMA Assistance Information - Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS - A toll-free application telephone number and on-line registration are now operational for residents in eight Indiana counties who suffered property damage or losses from severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred May 30 and continuing.

The Indiana counties designated for Individual Assistance (IA) are Bartholomew, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion and Vigo counties. Additional designations may be made at a later date after further evaluation.

State and Federal officials encourage those affected by the disaster to apply for assistance immediately

by going online to <http://www.fema.gov> or by calling this toll-free number, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern time), seven days a week, until further notice. Those with speech or hearing impairments may call TTY 1-800-462-7585.

Officials remind affected residents who have already filled out damage report forms with the State, or their county emergency managers, or voluntary agencies that they must register with FEMA at the above numbers or Web site to be eligible for federal assistance.

All residents are also encouraged to get involved with the recovery by helping spread the word about available assistance. Tell your neighbor.

The declaration makes a wide range of programs available to residents such as funding for temporary disaster housing assistance, replacement grants for serious disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or assistance programs.

When applying for help, be sure to have the following information available:

- Your current phone number;
- Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying;
- Your Social Security number, if available;
- A general list of damages and losses you suffered;
- If insured, the name of your company or agent and your policy number;
- General financial information;
- Bank account coding if you wish to speed up your assistance with direct deposit.

FEMA disaster assistance covers basic needs only and will not normally compensate you for your entire loss. If you have insurance, the government may help pay for basic needs not covered under your insurance policy.

Some disaster aid does not have to be paid back, while other help may come in the form of loans. The FEMA representative will explain the details to you when you call.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes are also available to repay or replace damaged or destroyed property.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

FEMA Assistance Centers

Owen County

Spencer Elementary School
151 Hillside Avenue
Spencer, Indiana

Bartholomew County

Northside Middle School
1400 27th Street
Columbus, Indiana

Morgan County

Poston Road Elementary School
139 East Poston Road
Martinsville, Indiana

Vigo County

Booker T. Washington Community Center
1101 S. 13th Street
Terre Haute, Indiana

Johnson County

Franklin College
Johnson Center for Fine Arts
211 Branigin Boulevard
Franklin, Indiana

Marion County

Far Eastside Neighborhood Center
C.A.F.E.
8902 East 38th Street
Indianapolis

At the disaster assistance centers, computers and phones will be available for Hoosiers to complete (FEMA) applications. In addition, the Red Cross will be on site to deliver basic necessities for those needing food, water or clothing and other essential items. State agencies, including the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Indiana Department of Insurance, Department of Workforce Development and others, will have representatives on site to provide immediate assistance and answer questions for those who have suffered a loss. These state services will be available:

Housing Support - Listing of emergency shelters; listing of temporary housing; rental assistance; apply for Small Business Administration (SBA) home disaster loan

Social Services - Replacement and emergency food stamps; application assistance for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamps, Medicaid and child care; listing of available child care providers; mental health service referrals; mobile feeding; Red Cross and Salvation Army case work

Unemployment Insurance - Apply for state unemployment benefits or Disaster Unemployment Insurance

Insurance Information - Interpretation of insurance policies by staff of the Indiana Department of Insurance; information on lost or damaged policies; information on obtaining copies of insurance policies; general insurance navigation advice and complaint resolution; car insurance assistance; representatives from private insurers will be on site to answer questions

Public Health Information - Clean up advice and education including mold removal and prevention; vaccination information, including tetanus shots; information regarding free well water testing; access and information to vital records such as birth and death certificates; listing of open medical treatment facilities

Transportation Assistance - Rental car information; vehicle title and registration replacement or apply for a salvage vehicle title via the BMV; car insurance assistance from agents of major private insurance providers; replacement of driver licenses and identification cards.

Business and Financial Services - Application assistance for SBA Disaster Loans from small business counselors from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation; business continuation and planning consulting from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

Agriculture - Representatives from the Department of Agriculture will be available to answer questions.

Louisville TV

WAVE

[Section of Indiana 57 washed out](#)

BLOOMFIELD, Ind. (AP) - A section of State Road 57 in Greene County has been washed away by high water.

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Department of Transportation spokeswoman Cher Goodwin says there's no estimate of damages yet, but the road isn't expected to be repaired until the end of July.

In the meantime, the department has designated a 13-mile detour - west through Odon, then north to Bloomfield and back on State Road 54.

WDRB

Indiana flood cleanup continues; blood drive helps victims

Devastating floods in Indiana are forcing victims to go even further to find emergency medical care.

The Columbus Regional Hospital was forced to transfer all of its patients due to flood waters. Cleanup is also underway in several neighborhoods.

The Lagoons area is surrounded by two man-made ponds. Nearly every house on the street has water damage.

Local families spent the weekend tossing out everything and attempting to dry out their basements.

Some credit area volunteers with making the cleanup effort easier. Flood victim Mimi Hageman says, "The churches have been great, the community has been great. But I don't think the community realized how the Lagoons area was so hard-hit."

Some residents will have to pay for home repairs because their insurance policies will not cover the damage.

FEMA has set up temporary offices in Columbus and several other Indiana communities.

You can help Indiana's flood victims by giving blood Monday.

A blood drive will be held at the Clark County Red Cross building on East 8th Street in Jeffersonville from 1-7 p.m.

Anyone who donates blood Monday will have a chance to win an Indianapolis Colts football signed by Coach Tony Dungy.

The American Red Cross reports a quarter of the local blood supply has gone to victims of the floods.

Indiana looks to dry out as flooding moves south

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Meanwhile, most of the state will see cool, dry weather with temperatures in the 70s this week. There is a 20% chance of rain on Friday.

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WHAS

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The upcoming dry weather will give rivers and farm fields a good two or three days to drain, Smith said.

Weather service hydrologist Al Shipe said ground can dry out fast when the sun rises as high as it does this time of year.

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A total of 95 flood victims were still staying in shelters Sunday night in Columbus, Martinsville and Terre Haute, according to the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis.

The state Bureau of Motor Vehicles has announced that people can help flood victims by donating bottled water, nonperishable food, diapers and other items at branch offices throughout the state.

On Monday, President Bush approved federal assistance for Decatur and Wayne counties, bringing the total Indiana counties approved to 28. The assistance can include grants and low-cost loans for home repairs.

Also Monday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture gave the state approval to issue emergency food stamps to residents in 14 additional counties hit hard by flooding. Those counties are: Adams, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Greene, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Knox, Owen, Rush, Shelby and Sullivan.

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WIBC

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Indianapolis Star

[Rivers cresting, flood danger lingers](#)

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2:34 PM -- College hosts Johnson Co. flood center

FRANKLIN, Ind. — State officials have established a “one-stop shop” at Franklin College for people displaced or otherwise affected by last week’s flooding.

The announcement came early this afternoon at a public meeting held by federal and state officials. About 250 people attended the two-hour meeting at the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Franklin.

The audience listened closely and remained calm as officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross and state government outlined ways to obtain help in repairs and recovery from flood damage.

E. Mitchell Roob, head of Indiana’s Family and Social Services Administration, said several national and state agencies will staff the center in Franklin College’s Fine Arts Building, 101 Branigan Blvd.

The center will direct people on how to receive help ranging from financial assistance to food stamps and medical services.

“We are determined to be here in Johnson County until we help Johnson County get back on its feet,” Roob said.

Kim Gibson, 36, said her home in Center Street in Franklin had the entire basement flooded.

“Everybody’s frustrated,” she said after the meeting. “I’ve been looted.”

She said she intended to visit the center to learn more about her options.

Gibson said she believes federal and state officials cares about the plight of people like her. The problem, she added, is “not enough people with knowledge.”

According to federal officials, the most important thing for flooding victims to do is to register with FEMA. That is the first step to receiving grants, loans and other assistance.

The best way to register is by telephone at (800) 621-3362 or online at www.fema.gov.

Small Business Administration officials also encouraged registration at www.sba.gov

Melynda Petrie, a spokeswoman for FEMA, said the agency has distributed \$5 million in housing grants and \$536,000 in other assistance such as medical services.

11:44 AM -- Relief officials hold Johnson Co. meeting

Flood victims can voice their concerns today during a town hall meeting with state legislators and federal relief officials in Franklin.

The meeting, organized by state Rep. Woody Burton, R-Greenwood, will be held at noon in Scott Hall of the Johnson County Fairgrounds, 100 Fairground St.

Local and national officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency will attend the meeting to answer questions, along with state Reps. David Frizzell, R-Indianapolis, and Milo Smith, R-Columbus, as well as Johnson County officials.

U.S. Congressmen Dan Burton, Steve Buyer and Mike Pence will have representatives at the meeting.

Those in need of assistance can contact the following agencies and offices:

American Red Cross: (866) 438-4636. Locally, residents in Johnson and Morgan counties can call (317) 684-1441.

For information about debris removal, Johnson County residents can call the Johnson County Solid Waste Management District at (317) 738-2546.

11:01 AM -- Daniels to tour storm damage

Gov. Mitch Daniels will tour storm damage in south central and southwestern Indiana today.

The governor will visit Bicknell, Edwardsport and Westphalia.

Later in the afternoon, he will tour flood damage in New Harmony.

The governor met with Nashville officials earlier today to get an update on damage and recovery efforts there.

Earlier

State officials are urging residents to notify the Federal Emergency Management Agency of flooding damage to their property as soon as possible.

Four more counties — Hamilton, Parke, Putnam and Randolph — were added Saturday to Indiana's disaster declaration, making 26 of the state's 92 counties eligible for federal assistance programs.

State or federal assistance centers have opened in Columbus, Franklin, Indianapolis, Martinsville and Terre Haute, but officials say those with damage should contact FEMA online or by phone even before visiting a center.

The sooner an initial report is made, the sooner an inspector can be sent to that property, said Pam Bright, a spokeswoman for the state's Homeland Security Department.

"What we're finding is they're waiting. Some people may not be able to get to an assistance center until Wednesday, so they are going to wait until Wednesday to even apply," she said. "We need them to apply

immediately.”

Those counties previously approved for assistance are: Adams, Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Greene, Hancock, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo.

The disaster designation covers damage from storms that from May 30 to June 7.

Those who sustained losses in those counties can begin applying for assistance by registering online at www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362. The phone lines are available 8 a.m.-6 p.m. seven days a week.

[Franklin opens 'one-stop shop' for flood victims](#)

FRANKLIN, Ind. — State officials have established a “one-stop shop” at Franklin College for people displaced or otherwise affected by last week’s flooding.

The announcement came early this afternoon at a public meeting held by federal and state officials. About 250 people attended the two-hour meeting at the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Franklin.

The audience listened closely and remained calm as officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross and state government outlined ways to obtain help in repairs and recovery from flood damage.

E. Mitchell Roob, head of Indiana’s Family and Social Services Administration, said several national and state agencies will staff the center in Franklin College’s Fine Arts Building, 101 Branigan Blvd.

The center will direct people on how to receive help ranging from financial assistance to food stamps and medical services.

“We are determined to be here in Johnson County until we help Johnson County get back on its feet,” Roob said.

Kim Gibson, 36, said her home in Center Street in Franklin had the entire basement flooded.

“Everybody’s frustrated,” she said after the meeting. “I’ve been looted.”

She said she intended to visit the center to learn more about her options.

Gibson said she believes federal and state officials cares about the plight of people like her. The problem, she added, is “not enough people with knowledge.”

According to federal officials, the most important thing for flooding victims to do is to register with FEMA. That is the first step to receiving grants, loans and other assistance.

The best way to register is by telephone at (800) 621-3362 or online at www.fema.gov.

Small Business Administration officials also encouraged registration at www.sba.gov

Melynda Petrie, a spokeswoman for FEMA, said the agency has distributed \$5 million in housing grants and \$536,000 in other assistance such as medical services.

Louisville Courier Journal

[Flood threat lingers into next week](#)

Cresting water levels reached the Ohio River on their way out of Indiana yesterday, but forecasters say flooding could threaten the southwestern part of the state into next week.

Most of Indiana will see cool, dry weather with temperatures in the 70s this week, said John Hendrickson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Indianapolis. There is a 20 percent chance of rain on Friday.

"Otherwise it will generally be a dry week coming up, a lot quieter than it has been lately," Hendrickson said.

Heavy rain the first weekend of June triggered widespread flooding in several counties. The state saw its latest dose of wild weather on Sunday, when winds of up to 70 mph knocked down trees in north-central Indiana and snapped power lines west of Lafayette.

Hailstones as large as 1.25 inches in diameter were reported in Mishawaka in Northern Indiana, and strong winds tore off part of a roof at Christ Memorial Temple on Lafayette's east side. No injuries were reported, but power was knocked out in many parts of the state.

Areas along the Wabash and White rivers in Southern **Indiana** are still seeing moderate to major flooding, but they should go below flood stage by early next week, said Robin Smith, a meteorologist with the weather service in Paducah, Ky.

Other Indiana waterways should fall below flood stage by Friday.

The Indiana National Guard was monitoring conditions in Hazleton, East Mount Carmel and New Harmony, said John Erickson, a state Department of Homeland Security spokesman.

Otherwise, he said, the state has "crossed the threshold" toward recovery.

"The weather outlook is in our favor," he said. "The rainfall over the weekend didn't have any significant effect on river levels, and no significant flooding occurred."

The upcoming dry weather will give rivers and farm fields a good two or three days to drain, Smith said.

Weather service hydrologist Al Shipe said ground can dry out fast when the sun rises as high as it does this time of year.

"A lot of the water, the way it fell, it ran off, it didn't soak in," Shipe said. "You go this time of the year a week without rain, and you wonder where the water is."

Homeland Security reported that 119 people were still staying in shelters in Bartholomew, Morgan and Vigo counties as of yesterday morning.

The Bureau of Motor **Vehicles** said that people can help flood victims by donating bottled water, nonperishable food, diapers and other items at branch offices throughout the state.

[Records show state failed to act on deficient dams](#)

INDIANAPOLIS -- The owners of four dams damaged by this spring's flooding and stormy weather had been warned about their barriers' deficiencies, but they never made repairs and the state never punished them.

They include Johnson County's Earlham Lake Dam, the only one found to have failed after the Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Natural Resources inspected 102 structures last week.

Heavy storms overwhelmed the dam's spillways, causing it to fail and destroying a road that runs over it. The spillway was listed as deficient by state inspectors in several reviews dating to 1997, and the state noted in 2005 that the amount of water it could handle fell below Department of Natural Resources standards, the Indianapolis Star reported.

The state lists the owner of the dam as Earlham Lake Estates. Company President David Hunter declined to comment.

A residents' association that owns the road over the dam said it would pay for its reconstruction.

"It's not fair," member Joyce Campbell said. "Their (spillway) just wasn't designed to handle that kind of brutality."

Also in Johnson County, a 2006 inspection noted that the East Lake dam spillway could handle only half the amount of water state standards require. Water overflowing from East Lake damaged an estimated 100 homes.

A 1995 inspection found that a Morgan County dam had an emergency spillway that appeared too small. The Graybrook Dam in Owen County was listed in poor condition in 2006. Both dams failed last week, draining nearby lakes.

If dam owners refuse to comply with state safety standards, officials can report them to the attorney general and drain the affected body of water, said George Crosby, manager of the Department of Natural Resources dam and levee safety section. But the state took no legal action against owners of the four delinquent dams.

About half of the 1,100 dams under state jurisdiction need some sort of repair, but **Indiana** has initiated legal action against dam owners only 15 to 20 times in the past five years, Natural Resources spokesman Phil Bloom said. Municipalities and private entities own most of the dams under state jurisdiction.

Because of limited resources, officials appear to target the most hazardous structures, Crosby said.

Evansville Courier Press

[Official 'not overly concerned' about levee](#)

Though 30 National Guardsmen remained in New Harmony, Ind., on Monday night, Posey County Emergency Management Director Larry Robb said he's not worried the sandbagged levee could fail.

"I'm not overly concerned at this point," he said. "We're just cautious."

Throughout the Tri-State, those living along rivers relaxed a bit and began cleaning up the mess left in the wake of last week's flooding.

Even though the Wabash River crested there Sunday, New Harmony isn't out of danger, Robb acknowledged. He said the Guard spent Monday checking the levee about every 15 minutes making sure the high, but receding, waters could not penetrate the softened sandbags. The remaining troops could stay in town through today, he said.

All told, the Guard used about 20,000 sandbags in New Harmony, Robb said. The sandbagging operation began Friday morning.

According to the National Weather Service, the Wabash River crested at 22.45 feet Sunday in New Harmony. Flood stage is 15 feet.

The river was at 22.02 feet Monday evening.

Farther north, the Wabash crested at 33.24 feet early Saturday in Mount Carmel, Ill., according to the National Weather Service.

The river had fallen to 31.38 feet Monday evening, still more than 12 feet more than flood stage.

The White River at Hazleton, Ind., was at 26.8 feet Monday, down from a crest of 29.7 feet late last week. Flood stage there is 16 feet.

National Guard played a vital role

Robb said the National Guard troops helped minimize the flood's effect in New Harmony.

"The military personnel was a great group of people," he said. "They put a lot of hard work into this project."

Gov. Mitch Daniels visited the New Harmony area Monday afternoon, one of several stops he made to look at flooding damage.

